REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 30-39 are pending. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The present invention relates to a process for preparing a monoclonal antibody, comprising:

rendering an animal tolerant to an eukaryotic cell in a first state;

detecting said tolerant animal;

immunizing said tolerant animal, by injection of the eukaryotic cell in a second state carrying a neo-antigen or a non-self antigen;

fusing B cells of said immunized mice with a myeloma cell line; and

selecting (1) a hybridoma which secretes an antibody having the same epitope specificity as the antibody produced by hybridoma Pf 26G1/B4 deposited at Collection Nationale de Cultures de Microorganismes (CNCM) on February 23, 2001, under accession number I-2635 or (2) a hybridoma which secretes an antibody having the same epitope specificity as the antibody produced by hybridoma Pf 26G1/C10 deposited at Collection Nationale de Cultures de Microorganismes (CNCM) on February 23, 2001, under accession number I-2636.

See Claim 30.

The rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and §103(a) over Yoshida et al. '934, Imam et al., Matthew et al., Yoshida et al. '740 and Ring as set forth at pages 5-15 of the Official Action are believed to be obviated by the amendment submitted above. None of those references disclose a hybridoma which secretes an antibody having the same epitope specificity as the antibody produced by hybridoma Pf 26G1/B4 or a hybridoma which secretes an antibody having the same epitope specificity as the antibody produced by hybridoma Pf 26G1/C10. Moreover, those references do not suggest either of those hybridomas.

Yoshida et al. '934 disclose hybridoma cell lines which secrete monoclonal antibodies capable of binding to tumor cells. See the Abstract.

Imam et al. disclose a monoclonal antibody against luminal epithelial antigen. See the Abstract.

Matthew et al. disclose the use of cyclophosphamide to manipulate the immune system for the production of monoclonal antibodies. See the Abstract.

Yoshida et al. '740 disclose antihuman pulmonary adenocarcinoma monoclonal antibody. See the Abstract.

Ring discloses immunoglobulins which have affinity for cancer antigens. See the Abstract.

Based on the foregoing, the cited references alone or in any combination fail to describe or suggest the claimed process. Accordingly, Claims 30-39 are neither anticipated by nor obvious over those references. Accordingly, withdrawal of these grounds of rejection is respectfully requested.

The rejection of Claims 1-4, 9-11, 23 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is believed to be obviated by the amendments submitted above. The rejected claims have been canceled and the language noted in the Official Action is not present in the newly-added claims. Accordingly, withdrawal of this ground of rejection is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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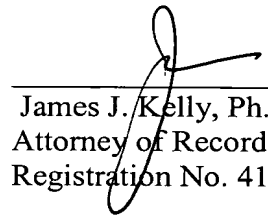
Norman F. Oblon



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